

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TEGUCI 04575 071605Z

47

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-10 NSCE-00 L-02 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01 DODE-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 CCO-00

DRC-01 /052 W

----- 065347

O P 071328Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5831

INFO AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY MEXICO

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR PRIORITY

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEGUCIGALPA 4575

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D COPY (FOR TEXT)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HO, ES

SUBJ: FUTURE OF HONDURAS/SALVADOR TALKS

REF: SAN SALVADOR 4536

1. WE DO NOT EXPECT ANY INPUTS ON BILATERAL DISPUTE
UNTIL AFTER BATRES RETURNS TO HONDURAS. MEANTIME,
DEPT WILL DOUBTLESS BE BRIEFED DURING HIS CURRENT
TRIP TO WASHINGTON.

2. MIN OF FINANCE ACOSTA BONILLA DISCUSSED PROBLEM
WITH US YESTERDAY FOLLOWING HIS PANAMA TRIP TO BRIEF
TORRIJOS. HE CHARACTERIZED SITUATION AS "STUPID" THAT
THERE WAS NOT ENOUGH COLLECTIVE INTELLIGENCE TO SOLVE
WHAT WAS REALLY RELATIVELY MINOR FRONTIER PROBLEM.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TEGUCI 04575 071605Z

THERE PERSISTED A CERTAIN REGRETTABLE GAMESMANSHIP ON NEGOTIATIONS WHICH TOTTED UP "POINTS" WON. HE ASSERTED THAT BATRES HAD SUFFICIENT INGENUITY TO BREAK THROUGH TO A SETTLEMENT, BUT UNFORTUNATELY AN OLDER GENERATION OF JURISTS HAD PRETTY WELL IMPOSED ON THE GOH A SET OF CONCEPTS (AND BATRES HAD INHERITED THIS 10-MAN TEAM OF NEGOTIATORS CAUGHT UP IN THESE CONCEPTS) WHICH TIED HIM DOWN. BUT IT WAS OBVIOUS THAT PRES MOLINA, BY APPOINTING GALINDO TO HEAD UP THE TALKS, DID NOT PLAN ON THEM TO SUCCEED. IN FACT, AS HIS MOVE ON THE PACT OF BOGOTA PROVED, HE PLANNED ON THE TALKS TO SELF-DESTRUCT.

3. ACOSTA OFFERED NO PARTICULAR IDEAS ON HOW TO PROCEED FROM HERE. HE AGREED WITH OUR OBSERVATIONS ON THE NEED TO KEEP TALKING AND THE IMPORTANCE OF AVOIDING RASH ACTIONS. HE ELABORATED AT SOME LENGTH ON THE URGENCY WITH WHICH THE GOH DESIRES A SETTLEMENT, TERMING IT CRUCIAL THAT THE ISSUE BE SETTLED TO PERMIT RESUMPTION OF CACM ARRANGEMENTS.

4. IN A SEPARATE CONVERSATION OF YESTERDAY, CHIEF OF GENERAL STAFF COL HERNANDEZ AND G-1 LTC JUAN ARIAS REPEATED TO DCM THEIR DESIRE TO KEEP THINGS TRANQUIL. ARIAS ATTRIBUTED TROUBLE TO MOLINA'S BEING TOO INSECURE TO MAKE BINDING DECISIONS.

5 COMMENT: AS BATRES HAS INDICATED TO US, THE GOH WOULD BE UNWILLING SIMPLY TO ADJOURN TALKS INTO APRIL OF NEXT YEAR. ALTHOUGH SELF-IMPOSED DEADLINE TIMETABLE IS TROUBLESOME, WE IMAGINE THAT WAYS CAN BE FOUND TO KEEP TWO SIDES IN SOME SEMBLANCE OF WORKING CONTACT. HOWEVER, TO BEGIN WITH, GOES SHOULD RECOGNIZE THAT GOH MOTIVE IN PUSHING ON WITH NEGOTIATIONS ARISES FROM GENUINE URGENCY TO SOLVE MATTER AND IS NOT ENACTMENT OF SOME FANCIFUL CHARADE TO DRIVE TALKS TO SHIPWRECK SO AS TO "SHOW UP" GOES OBSTINACY. BATRES HAS TO SUCH DEGREE IDENTIFIED HIMSELF WITH TALKS AND FOREGONE FOR SO LONG HIS IMPORTANT ROLE OF MEDIATOR/PLANNER WITHIN THE CABINET, THAT EXPLOSION OR LONG POST-PONEMENT OF TALKS WOULD
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 TEGUCI 04575 071605Z

CONSTITUTE, AS HE SAYS, SERIOUS BARRIER TO THEIR RESUMPTION IN NEAR FUTURE. IT IS PRECISELY THE COMMITMENT OF GOH ADMINISTRATION WHICH MAKES ANY SIDELINING OF ISSUE POLITICALLY DIFFICULT.

6. IT SEEMS FAIRLY CLEAR THAT MEXICAN GOVERNMENT IS PLAYING ONLY PRO-FORMA "MODERATOR" ROLE. OTHERWISE, THE MEXICAN MODERATOR WOULD BE THE IDEAL SOURCE OF

SUGGESTIONS AND INITIATIVES AT THIS TIME.

7. IN CIRCUMSTANCES, WE ARE THROWN BACK ON CA
PRESIDENTS ARANA AND SOMOZA AS BEST AVAILABLE
POSSIBILITIES TO DEVISE AND KEEP IN MOVEMENTS SOME
MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE SCENARIO. THE MAIN DESIDERATUM
IS TO KEEP THE TWO SIDES IN SOME KIND OF PRODUCTIVE
CONVERSATION, AND ARENALES' FORMULA (GUATEMALA 5768)
MAY BE AS GOOD AS ANY. ANOTHER POSSIBILITY WOULD BE
TO SET UP SOME BORDER STUDY COMMISSION FOR AN INCH-
BY-INCH EXAMINATION OF ALLEGED REMAINING "POCKETS"
(WHICH AS WE RECOLLECT HAVE BEEN OUTSTANDING SINCE FONMIN
ALVARADO PUERTO'S TALKS IN 1971-72).

8. WE CANNOT EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM SOMOZA AND ARANA,
OR FOR THAT MATTER FROM LOPEZ AND MOLINA, BEYOND AEGIS
OF RESPECTABILITY AND SERIOUSNESS THEY PROVIDE. SUMMIT
TALKS NEVER WORK UNLESS GROUNDWORK FOR DECISION HAS ALREADY
BEEN LAID, AND SOMOZA'S SPONSORSHIP OF LOPEZ/SANCHEZ/
MOLINA MEETINGS HAS BEEN NOTABLY EMPTY OF ACHIEVEMENT.
THE FACT IS THAT NEITHER LOPEZ NOR MOLINA KNOW THE DETAILS
OF THE PROBLEM.

9. ONE POTENTIAL DIFFICULTY OF SOMOZA'S PARTICIPATION IS
HIS APPARENT DISLIKE OF PRESENT GOH AND HIS DISINGENUOUS
ATTEMPTS TO EXPLOIT MODERATOR ROLE TO DISCREDIT BATRES
WITH LOPEZ. THIS OF COURSE MERELY OBFUSCATES POSSIBLE
SOLUTIONS AND COULD BACKFIRE VERY BADLY INDEED.
SANCHEZ

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, BOUNDARY DETERMINATION, NEGOTIATIONS, BORDER CONTROLS, MEETINGS, BOGOTA PACT, INTERNATIONAL ARBITRATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973TEGUCI04575
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEGUCIGALPA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731237/aaaabasw.tel
Line Count: 144
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: LIMDIS
Reference: SAN SALVADOR 4536
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 17 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <17-Jan-2002 by martinjw>; APPROVED <08 FEB 2002 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FUTURE OF HONDURAS/SALVADOR TALKS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, HO, ES
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005